



**Board of Commissioners Agenda Request Form**

**Non-Profit Discretionary Grant Request**

**This form must be completed and attached to all supporting documentation for items to be included in the Garfield County Board of Commissioners Agenda. One (1) form is required per agenda item.**

Department/Agency: Middle Colorado Watershed Council

Submitted By: Kate Collins

Phone Number: 970-274-0899 E-mail: [kcollins@midcowatershed.org](mailto:kcollins@midcowatershed.org)

Date of Board of Commissioners Meeting to consider this item: May 4, 2026 (Must be submitted by **Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.** prior to Monday meeting)

Topic: 2026 report in support of \$10,000 budgeted annual operating grant

Description (short summary of topic): Short update on the MCWC and Colorado River Wildfire Collaborative (CRWC) work and key projects year-to-date.

Name(s) of presenters: Kate Collins, Executive Director

Requested Board Actions (if funding is requested, specify amount): Final approval of \$10,000 annual operating support for MCWC and CRWC capacity.

**PLEASE PROVIDE:** **Seven (7) paper copies and one (1) E-mail copy** of all documentation to support the agenda request to **Vola Mercer**, email: [vmercerc@garfieldcountyco.gov](mailto:vmercerc@garfieldcountyco.gov) or mail to 108 8<sup>th</sup> Street, #101, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, no later than Wednesday, 11 a.m. prior to the Monday meeting. Failure to provide backup material timely and as requested may result in removal or continuance of your agenda item at the County's discretion.

For office use only:
Where does item need to appear: _____
Date Submitted: _____
Materials Received: _____
County Funds requested: _____

**Middle  
Colorado  
Watershed  
Council  
&  
Colorado  
River  
Wildfire  
Collaborative**



**GarCo BOCC, May 4, 2026**

# Our work

Middle Colorado Watershed Council brings people together to:

- Protect water quality and availability
- Reduce wildfire risk, and
- Strengthen the long-term health of the middle Colorado River watershed through shared understanding and coordinated action.



# Colorado River Wildfire Collaborative

- Multijurisdictional, cross-boundary entity
- Formed in 2021
- 40+ Regional Partners signed MOU in 2022



# Colorado River Wildfire Collaborative

## Goals:

- Reduce wildfire risk,
- Protect infrastructure &
- Prepare for post-fire recovery

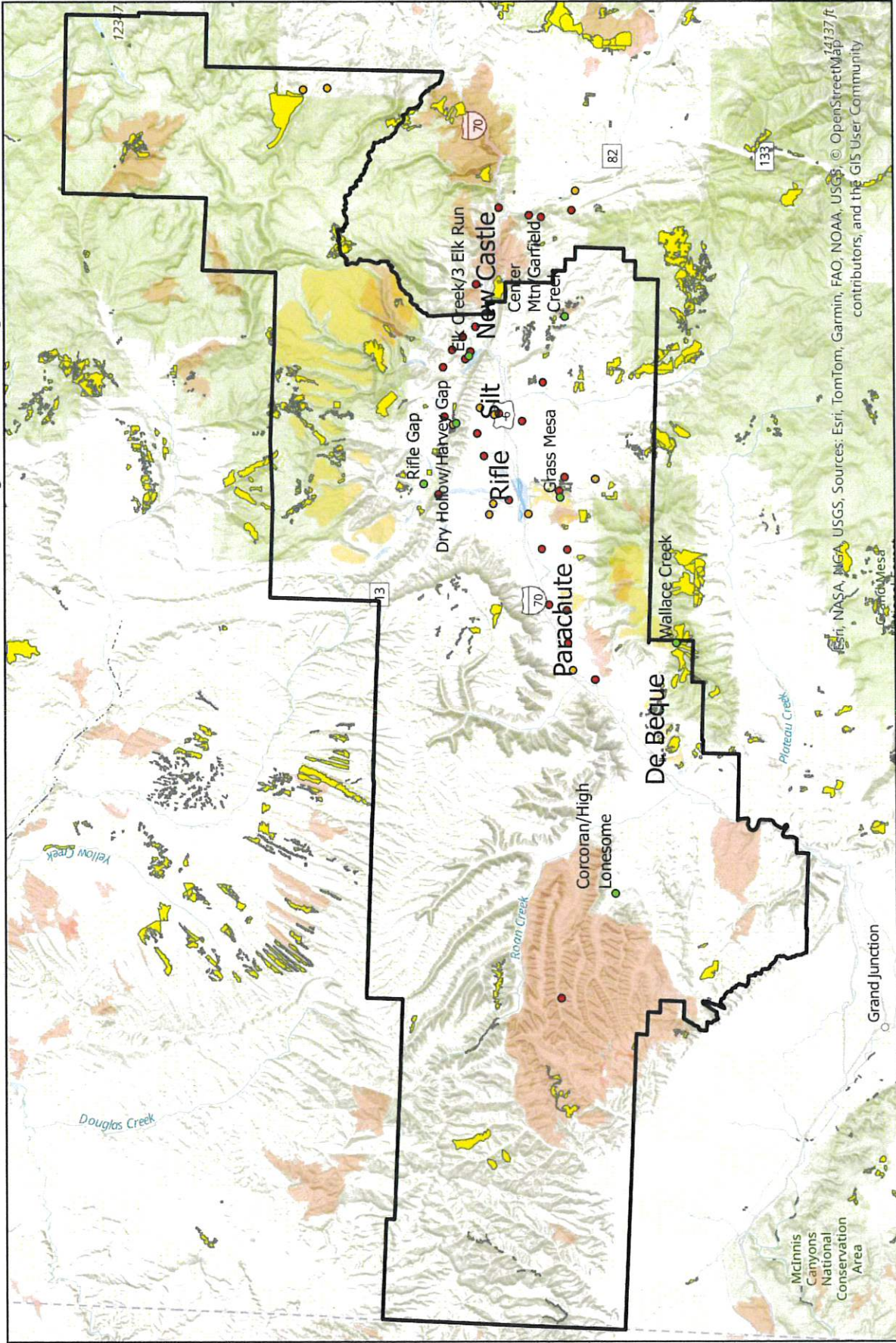


# Colorado River Wildfire Collaborative

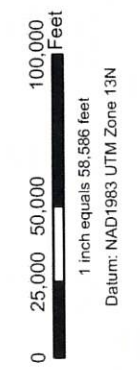
- **Mitigation expenses are far less than suppression/firefighting costs**
- **Community resilience means living with fire and proactively reducing its destructive consequences.**
- **Post-fire hazards to source water are equally concerning**



# Colorado River Wildfire Collaborative Project Planning



- Collaborative Project Plans
- Historical Fires
- Identified Burn Mitigation Area (WRAP)
- Identified Floodplain Mitigation Area (WRAP)
- CRWC Boundary
- High Prio CWPP
- Mod Prio CWPP
- Past Mitigation Actions



Prepared By:  
 Colorado State Forest Service  
 Rifle Field Office  
 April 2026



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

# Wildfire Ready Action Plan

- Maps “Values at Risk” (VARs)—schools, neighborhoods, utilities & infrastructure
- Lines out a plan and priority for pre-disaster planning and mitigation.



# CRWC Administration and Funding

## Work Since Inception

- CRWC continued meeting monthly and identifying projects from 2022-2025

## 2025 Grant Awards

- Rural Grant Navigator Program (RGN)
- Coalition and Collaboratives (CO-CO) AIM Grant

## 2026-2030 Grant Award

- \$350k Fire Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) Grant
- 10 match partners supported this application
- Leveraged Rural Grant Navigator and AIM as match funding
- Full-time CRWC Program Manager for three years

# Sam Feuerborn - Starts May 18

## Key Responsibilities

- Outreach and Education
- Fire Adaptation and Vegetation Management Implementation
- Funding and Grant Management
- FRWRM award is only for capacity funding
  - Program Manager will seek additional funding to support on-the-ground project implementation with the support of collaborative stakeholders

## Sam Feuerborn - Starts May 18

- Program Manager will support partner organizations (Colorado State Forest Service, fire districts, agencies, communities) in mitigation project planning and implementation
- CRWC Partners have identified projects for a [5-Year Project Plan](#)
- New grants and funding sources will enable more mitigation projects, neighborhood chipping days, defensible space inspections and more

**Thank You!**



**Kate Collins, Executive Director**

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